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1-12. (CANCELED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fork lift truck (10) comprising a truck body (12), a lift mechanism (14) connected to the truck body (12) by means of a vertically extending pivot (52) and means (24) for turning the lift mechanism (14) relative to the truck body (12) about said pivot (52) to steer the fork lift truck (10), the truck body (12) having a pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) mounted on transverse axes, the lifting mechanism (14) having a single ground engaging front wheel (40) mounted centrally on a transverse axis, characterised in that

wherein the front wheel (40) has independent drive means (44, 46).

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the lift mechanism (14) ~~may be~~ is pivoted to the truck body (12) at a steering angle of substantially 90° or more.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the front wheel (40) is positioned forwardly of the pivot connection (52) between the truck body (12) and the lifting mechanism (14).

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the front wheel (40) is positioned as far forward as possible towards ~~[[the]]~~ a load bearing part (36) of the lifting mechanism (14).

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the independent drive means (60,62;72,74) are provided to drive each of the rear wheels (16).

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 17, wherein the drive means (60,62;72,74) for the rear wheels (16) are connected to a power source (64;76), so that the rear wheels (16) ~~may be~~ are driven automatically at different speeds.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 17, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a drive means (60,62;72,74) for the rear wheels (16) and the independent drive means (44, 46) for the front wheel (40) are connected to a power source (64;76) in a manner which will permit power to be diverted automatically from ~~[[the]]~~ a rear inside wheel (16) to ~~one or more of the other wheels (16,40); at least one~~

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of an outside rear wheel (16) and the front wheel (40) in accordance with [[the]] a steering angle.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein each of the pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) and the single ground engaging front wheel ([16,]40) is driven independently by one of an hydraulic [[or]] and an electric motors (44,60,62;70,72,74).

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 20, wherein the motor (44) is connected to the front wheel (40) by a gearbox (46).

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the motor (44) and/or a gearbox (46) is built partially into a hub of the front wheel (40).

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fork lift truck according to claim 20, wherein the power for the motors (44,60,62;70,72,74) is provided by one of an engine (80) driven generator, [[or]] a hydraulic pump (76,78), [[or by]] and a battery pack (64).

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fork lift truck according to claim 23, wherein the engine (80) is an internal combustion engine powered by fuel gas.

25. (NEW) A fork lift truck (10) having only three ground engaging wheels, the fork lift truck comprising a truck body (12) and a lift mechanism (14) connected to the truck body (12) by a vertically extending pivot (52), the truck body (12) having steering controls (24) for turning the lift mechanism (14), relative to the truck body (12) about the pivot (52), and steering the fork lift truck (10) during operation of the fork lift truck (10), the truck body (12) having only a pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) and the lifting mechanism (14) having only a single front ground engaging wheel (40), the vertically extending pivot (52) being located between the pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) and single front ground engaging wheel (40), and the single front ground engaging wheel (40) being driven by an independent drive (44, 46).

26. (NEW) A fork lift truck (10) having only three ground engaging wheels, the fork lift truck comprising a truck body (12) and a lift mechanism (14) connected to the truck body (12) by a vertically extending pivot (52), the truck body (12) having steering controls (24) for turning the lift mechanism (14), relative to the truck body (12) about the pivot (52), and steering the fork lift truck (10) during operation of the fork lift truck

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(10), the truck body (12) having only a pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) and the lifting mechanism (14) having only a single front ground engaging wheel (40), the vertically extending pivot (52) being located between the steering controls (24) and the lift mechanism (14), and the single front ground engaging wheel (40) being driven by an independent drive (44, 46).